

Violation of the no use of electronic communication device provisions Minor school license holders



A conviction for a violation of this law will result in a 30-day suspension. A conviction of two or more violations will result in a revocation for one year. If the license is revoked, reinstatement procedures will also require posting of proof of financial responsibility (SR22 insurance) for two years and payment of a \$50 civil penalty, in addition to a reinstatement and new license fee. A suspension or revocation of a minor school license also withdraws the instruction permit or any other driving privilege.

Iowa's GDL law requires that before a driver upgrades to the intermediate license, the immediate six-month period prior to application be free of contributive accidents, convictions for moving traffic violations and sanctions. The driving privilege must not be expired. If the minor school license is suspended, revoked or expired, the six-month period will start over beginning on the reinstatement date or renewal date of the minor school license.

If a violation causes a serious injury, a court could impose an additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the violation causes a death, a court could impose an additional fine of \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 180 days, or both.

GDL instruction permit holders

Persons who hold a GDL instruction permit must maintain a consecutive six-month crash-free and moving traffic violation-free driving period to qualify to move up to the GDL intermediate level. A conviction for a violation

of this law will result in a 30-day suspension. As a result, the six-month crash-free and moving traffic violation-free period must be restarted, which will begin on the date that the person's driving privilege is reinstated.

If a violation causes a serious injury, a court could impose an additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the violation causes a death, a court could impose an additional fine of \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 180 days, or both.

GDL intermediate license holders

Persons who hold a GDL intermediate license must drive crash-free and moving traffic violation-free for 12 consecutive months to qualify for a GDL full license. The Iowa DOT may suspend for 30 days the driver's license of an intermediate license holder for a conviction of a violation of this law. As a result, the 12-month crash-free and moving traffic violation-free period must be restarted, which will begin on the date that the person's driving privilege is reinstated.

If a violation causes a serious injury, a court could impose an additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the violation causes a death, a court could impose an additional fine of \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 180 days, or both.

Special restricted license

The Iowa DOT may suspend for 30 days a person's special restricted license for the first conviction of a violation of this law. The Iowa DOT shall revoke the license upon receiving a record of conviction for two or more violations of any law of this state or a city ordinance regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, except parking violations. If revoked, the Iowa DOT shall not grant an application for a new driver's license until

the expiration of one year or until the person attains the age of 18, whichever is the longer period.

If a violation causes a serious injury, a court could impose an additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the violation causes a death, a court could impose an additional fine of \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not more than 180 days, or both.



For more information, visit:

www.iowadot.gov/CURBITCLICKIT

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Curb it-Click it

Electronic Communication Devices



Prohibited Uses While Driving



New Iowa 2010 law

Effective July 1, 2010, Iowa law prohibits all motor vehicle drivers from text-messaging while driving, and prohibits teens holding a “restricted” driver’s license from using an electronic communication device or electronic entertainment device while driving.

Prohibited uses

All drivers

No person shall use a handheld electronic communication device to write, send or read a text message while driving a motor vehicle, unless the motor vehicle is at a complete stop off the traveled portion of the roadway.



This provision of the law does not prohibit use of a global positioning or navigation system.

The provision related to “reading” a text message does not apply to a: (1) member of a public safety agency performing official duties; (2) health care professional in the course of an emergency situation; or (3) person receiving safety-related information, including emergency, traffic or weather alerts.

Teen drivers

No teen driver holding a restricted driver’s license shall use any electronic communication device or electronic entertainment device while driving a motor vehicle, unless the motor



vehicle is at a complete stop off the traveled portion of the roadway.

This provision of the law does not apply to the use of electronic equipment permanently installed in the motor vehicle or a portable device operated through permanently installed equipment, such as OnStar.

Teen driver “restricted” driver’s license types

There are four types of restricted driver’s licenses issued by the State of Iowa to teens between the ages of 14 and 18, as follows.

- **Graduated driver’s license (GDL) instruction permit** – available at age 14 for driving under the supervision of a parent/guardian, immediate family member over 21, driver education teacher or driver over age 25 with written permission of the parent/guardian.
- **GDL intermediate license** – available at age 16 to persons who meet all the conditions of an instruction permit and have a six-month crash-free and traffic moving violation-free period immediately preceding application for the license. The license holder is allowed to drive at certain times of the day without supervision.
- **Minor school license** – available at age 14½ to a person who has completed a driver education course, held an instruction permit during the six-month period immediately preceding application for the minor school license, has a clean driving record, lives one mile or more from school, and has permission from the school and parent/guardian.
- **Special restricted license** – available to persons between the ages of 16 and 18 who have completed an approved driver’s education course, are not attending school and have not met the

requirements to graduate from school, and need a driver’s license to travel to and from work, and to transport dependents to and from day care to maintain employment.

Full driving privileges with no restrictions are available at age 17 to persons who meet all the conditions of an intermediate license and have a 12-month crash-free and traffic moving violation-free period.

Enforcement

During an educational period from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, law enforcement officers shall issue a warning to violators of this law. After June 30, 2011, violators will be issued a citation.



Law enforcement officers are not authorized

to confiscate a portable electronic communication device from the driver or occupant of a motor vehicle.

Fines

Drivers holding a restricted driver’s license

The fine for a person holding a restricted driver’s license who is convicted of a violation of the law prohibiting use of electronic communication and electronic entertainment devices while driving is \$50, plus a \$17.50 criminal surcharge and \$60 in court costs, or a total of at least \$127.50.

All drivers

Any driver convicted of a violation of the no texting while driving law is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$30, plus a \$10.50 criminal surcharge and \$60 in court costs, or a total cost of at least \$100.50.

Driver’s license suspension and revocation

Violation of the no texting while driving law

A conviction for a violation of the no texting while driving law is not considered a moving traffic violation and generally will not result in a suspension of a person’s driver’s license.

However, a driver convicted of operating a motor vehicle in violation of this law causing serious injury to or the death of a person may be subject to the following penalties, in addition to the penalty provided for a scheduled violation of Iowa Code section 805.8A or any other penalty provided by law.

- For a violation causing serious injury, a fine of \$500 or suspension of the violator’s driver’s license or operating privileges for not more than 90 days, or both.
- For a violation causing death, a fine of \$1,000 or suspension of the violator’s driver’s license or operating privileges for not more than 180 days, or both.

